

	North Pacific	Western Pacific	Pacific	Caribbean	Gulf of Mexico	South Atlantic	Mid-Atlantic	New England
Council composition	11 voting members from 3 states (AK, WA, OR)	13 voting members from 1 State, 2 Territories and 1 Commonwealth (HI, GU, AS, CNMI)	14 voting members 4 State agency (WA, OR, CA, ID); 1 designated Tribal seat	7 Voting Members (PR & USVI)	17 voting members (TX, LA, MS, AL, FL)	13 voting members from 4 states (NC, SC, GA, FL)	21 voting members from 7 states (NC, VA, MD, DE, PA, NJ, NY)	18 voting members from 5 states (ME, NH, MA, RI, CT)
Meetings and public comment								
How many Council meetings per year, and how long does the council meet?	5 meetings per year; 9 days per meeting. 3 meetings in Anchorage, 1 in AK fishing community, 1 in Seattle or Portland. <i>Centrally located meetings near airports (limited road system).</i>	3 meetings per year; 4 days per council meeting; 2 in Honolulu; 1 either in AS or Guam and CNMI (Rotates annually)	5 Meetings per year, 6 days of Council floor time per meeting, plus 1-2 additional days of advisory body meetings in advance to prepare statements for Council consideration on Day 1.	Usually 3 to 4 meetings per year, two days per meeting, on a rotating basis between St.Thomas, St. Croix, and Puerto Rico.	5 meetings per year, each lasting between 4-5 days, rotating among locations in the different states.	4 meetings per year; 5 days per meeting. One meeting in each of the states each year.	Generally 6 meetings per year; 3-4 days per meeting. Infrequently, ad-hoc meetings (possibly via webinar) might be added to deal with unanticipated issues.	Generally 5 meetings per year; 3 days per meeting; in New England coastal areas. Ad-hoc meetings might be added to deal with unanticipated problems or delays.
Does the Council meet in the same location/time as its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and fishing industry Advisory Panel (AP)?	Yes. The SSC meets on days 1-3 of each council meeting, the AP meets days 2-6, and the Council meets days 3-9.	The Council does meet in close coordination with its SSC (just prior to each council meeting). The fishing Advisory Panel is being formed.	The SSC always meets in conjunction with the Council. The AP's almost always meet at Council meetings. Both may also meet outside of Council meetings to prepare materials for early distribution to Council, Agencies, other advisory bodies, and the public.	Not usually. Usually the AP and SSC meet separately from the Council. Since 2013, these meetings are being conducted at the CFMC's conference room, and sometimes at hotels if needed.	No. The Gulf Council does not typically meet with its AP or SSC.	The Council does not meet with the SSC. Sometimes the Council does meet with the APs (depending on the circumstances). The public attends the SSC and AP meetings and may make comments.	No re: the SSC. The council does not meet in conjunction with the SSC, but the Chair and Vice Chair usually attend SSC meetings. Advisory panels for FMPs or special topics usually meet independently or with the relevant committee.	No. The council does not meet in conjunction with the SSC or APs, but Council members are compensated for attending SSC meetings. The NEFMC has APs for each FMP. These APs may meet separately or together with FMP committees.

<p>Does the Council hold public hearings separately from Council meetings, and are they issue specific?</p>	<p>No. Public hearings for each issue are integrated into the Council meetings.</p>	<p>Yes. Some hearings are held separately from Council meetings for specific issues. However, most are held during Council meetings.</p>	<p>Rarely, except for Salmon season hearings between March and April meetings in several coastal communities. These hearings are always issue specific.</p>	<p>Yes, the Council holds public hearings separately from the Council meetings. Sometimes, the Council sets aside time for public hearings at Council meetings as well.</p>	<p>Yes, the Council holds public hearings separately from the Council meetings. The Council also holds public hearings during the Council meeting when final action is being taken on an item.</p>	<p>Yes. The Council generally holds a series of 8 issue-specific public hearings spread throughout the 4 states as well as public hearings at each of the 4 Council meetings. The series of public hearings are generally conducted three times each year, depending on the number of issues to be addressed.</p>	<p>The Council generally holds separately from Council meetings. Sometimes it is convenient/useful to have a hearing during a Council meeting (usually in the evening). Depending on the action, hearings can be held from ME-NC. The Council holds issue-specific hearings and occasional open comment listening sessions.</p>	<p>Hearings are usually held separately from Council meetings to provide greater access, especially for major actions. For less significant actions, hearings may be incorporated into Council meetings. Depending on the action, hearings can be held from ME to VA.</p>
---	---	--	---	---	--	---	---	---

How does the Council use committees?
Is there a standardized process for decision-making at the Council meetings?
How is public comment taken at hearings or committee meetings?
How is public informed about meeting agendas and council actions?
How do changes in fishing regulations or FMP get proposed?
Are there any background documents prepared to scope out the issue before initiating an analysis?
How do the purpose and need and alternatives get developed?
How is the initial draft analysis reviewed?
Is a revised draft analysis reviewed again before taking action?
How is the analysis made available to public, and how long in advance of the meeting is it available?
How long does it take from identification of a problem to Council taking final action?
How long does it take from Council final action to implementation of regulations?
Does the Council and NMFS staff meet early in the process to identify concerns/pitfalls (i.e., action planning or frontloading)? Is there an Action Plan developed before an analysis is prepared?
Do you have integrated analyses? Are the different laws/EOs addressed in separate sections?
Do you have a standard template for preparing analyses?
Does each analysis contain an Executive Summary?
Is there strategic planning regarding timing and tasking of issues?
How far out does the Council plan its meeting agenda items?
Does the Council have long term strategic plan or vision statement?